

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05223 101257 Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4393

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO FULBRIGH AGREEMENT

REF STATE 57537

1. ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH THE FRG FONOFF, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SELL HERE THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN REFTEL. THE PRESSURES IN THE FRG, ESPECIALLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE BUNDESTAG BUDGET COMMITTEE, FOR PARITY FINANCING OF THE US- GERMAN FULBRIGH- HAYS PROGRAM ARE CONSIDERABLE; AND HENCE THE FONOFF WOULD PREFER, WE ARE INFORMED, FOR THE INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD PARITY FINANCING IN THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 1962 AGREEMENT RATHER THAN IN A US LETTER TO THE FRG. WE WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD FACILITATE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS, WITH THE FRG CONTRIBUTING SOME 63 PERCENT OF THE PROGRAM COSTS, AND BE ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE IN CONTROL OF THE PURSE. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT PICARD IS AN OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBER OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. AS ONE OF THE TWO MEMBERS WHO MOST DIRECTLY INFLUENCE THE BN PROGRAM HE IS IN A KEY POSITION BUT HE CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE COMMITTEE.

2. A FORMULA AND AN APPROACH WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WHICH CARRY WITH THEM THE GREATEST ASSURANCE THAT THE FRG FONOFF, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND BUNDESTAG WILL BE WILLING TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN 50 PERCENT IN THE YEARS TO COME. AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, THE WORDING PROPOSED IN REFTEL WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL IN ACHIEVING

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THIS GOAL IF CONTAINED IN THE AMENDMENTS PROPER THAN
AN ACCOMPANYING LETTER. OUR CONTACTS STRESS THAT THE
LATTER APPROACH MIGHT, IN THE EYES OF THE FRG,
CONSIDERABLY DOWNGRADE OUR INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD
PARITY FINANCING AND GIVE IT LESS CREDIBILITY.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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